

Sub I 11
wherein the ratio of essential oil [components] (ml) to α -acid (g) in the extracted hops is increased by at least 2.

2. (Four Times Amended) A process for production of an essential oil-rich hop extract, comprising the steps of:

(1) extracting hops which has not previously been extracted with supercritical or subcritical carbon dioxide solvent at an extraction pressure of higher than 100 kg/cm² to

obtain a carbon

dioxide extract;

(2) separating bitter components from the carbon dioxide extract at a pressure between 100 kg/cm² and said extraction pressure; and then

(3) separating an essential oil-rich hop extract from the carbon dioxide extract at a pressure of 2 lower-than 100 kg/cm²,

wherein the ratio of essential oil [components] (ml) to α -acid (g) in the extracted hops is increased by at least 2.

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, and reconsideration of the above-identified application as amended are respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to delete the recitation of "components" to overcome the rejection under §112. These amendments do not raise new issues and are believed to place the claims in condition for allowance, or at the very least simplify issues on appeal. These claims have also been amended to recite that the hops has not previously been extracted. Since the specification distinguishes between "hops"